タアモ

たいようのいえ

6

House of the sun.
by Taamo

KC Dessert

講談社

KCD
694
デザート

たいようのいえ

House of the sun. 6

タアモ

講談社

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KCデザート Dessert

私なんかに帰ってこいって
言ってくれる人がいる。
心配してくれる人がいる。
頑張りたい。
私を想ってくれる人のために
もっと…ちゃんと…頑張りたい。

House of the sun.

「誰も傷つかない恋なんてないのかな」
誰かを想うほどに、
別の誰かの想いとぶつかって進めなくなる。
真魚も基もラジカルさんも織田くんもちーちゃんも。
そんな中、密かに真魚を想う大樹が
ついに帰ってくることに。
基の願いは一歩前進だけど!!?

年の差幼なじみの明るく切ない同居生活、第6巻♡

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My hand slipped.
What do you mean take it the wrong way?
And don't punch me.
Why'd you move the umbrella?
They'll take it the wrong way.
I'm going to punch you.

KCデザート

House of the sun.

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CHAPTER 21

The Girl Next Door

Hey, it's Taamo again.
Thank you so much
for buying volume 6!!
There's also a special edition—
it has lots of extra
illustrations in it,
so I highly recommend
you get that one!!

I just realized
that I never drew
a single swimsuit
in the previous
summer break arc,
so I drew one here!
I don't think Mao
would actually wear
a bikini, but I wanted
to draw her in one,
so there you have it.
She's in a bikini.

here
beside me.

Before
I knew it
she was

Short
little Mao.

100

98

100

I COULD DO THIS IN MY SLEEP.

WOW.

THAT'S AMAZING.

THERE'S NO POINT IN GOING.

WELL, DO YOU GO TO CRAM SCHOOL?

IF YOU ACTUALLY PAY ATTENTION IN CLASS, YOU'LL BE FINE.

I BEAT YOU!!

HERE.

95

HMM...

95

89

WHO'S MAGYO? MY NAME IS MAO.

WHAT'D YOU GET, MAGYO?

WHATEVER— JUST SHOW ME.

NAKAMURA WON!!

DON'T BE A SORE LOSER.

YOU'RE A SORE LOSER!!

I BARELY STUDIED FOR THIS TEST ANYWAY.

WE WEREN'T COMPETING TO BEGIN WITH.

HEY, DON'T IGNORE US!

Ignores

BUT YOU KNOW

MAO'S ALWAYS IN A BAD MOOD.

AND I'LL BE THE ONE TO DECIDE IF WE IGNORE HER OR NOT.

ガヤ ガヤ

ISN'T MOTOMIYA SO ANNOYING?

WE SHOULD JUST IGNORE HER!

YEAH.

HER HAIRSTYLE WAS REALLY CUTE

YOU KNOW, THE ONE WITH THE RIBBON.

YEAH.

IT'S CUTE.

IT LOOKS GOOD.

WHA—

WHAT'S SO CUTE ABOUT THAT SHORTY ANYWAY!?

YOU GUYS BLIND OR SOMETHING?

WHAT...?

YOU KNOW—

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS GOING OFF ABOUT?

.....

イラッ

KEN

50

MORINOKUMA

K

O

.....

ONE MORE GAME, MAGYO!

IT'S MAO!

AND NO. I DON'T WANT TO PLAY ANYMORE.

YOU'RE BORING TO PLAY WITH.

CAUSE YOU'RE REALLY SUPER WEAK.

SHUT UP!! YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUB IT IN!!

THOSE TWO ARE ALWAYS FIGHTING.

BARBARIC ISN'T IT, TEDDY?

IT'S ALMOST DINNER TIME FOR YOU GUYS, HUH.

I HAVE TO GO HOME.

swiff swiff

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STAY AND EAT WITH US?

NOPE.

WELL IT LOOKS WEIRD.

YOU MEAN MY HAIR?

I WAS JUST TRYING SOMETHING OUT.

MAO,

WHAT'S WITH YOUR HEAD?

IT'S NOT CUTE AT ALL.

I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD GO TO SCHOOL LIKE THAT ANYMORE.

HONESTLY, YOU LOOK TERRIBLE.

SEE YOU LATER.

I'M GOING HOME

DAD ALWAYS SAYS THAT TOO

.....

I KNOW.

.....

BYE MAO-CHAN!

BECAUSE HE SAYS IT MAKES ME LOOK LIKE MOM.

THAT BOYS BULLY THE GIRLS THEY LIKE.

KNOW WHAT?

HEY DAI-CHAN, I KNOW.

NO, IT'S MAO!!

I'M HO—

HEY, IT'S MAGYO.

GOING HOME ALREADY?

NO, YOU AREN'T!

STOP TEASING ME!

WELL? I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?

YOU'RE COMPLETELY WRONG.

...YOU'RE

THEN BRING IT OVER

I ALREADY HAVE FOOD!!

AND EAT IT WITH US.

NO ONE'S HOME RIGHT NOW ANYWAY, RIGHT?

STAY FOR DINNER.

YEAH.

HM?

xuxu

poke poke

YOU'RE JUST GOING TO TELL ME HOW UGLY IT LOOKS!!

NO I WASN'T!

WHY'D YOU TAKE IT OUT!?

DID YOU DO THIS YOURSELF?

WOW~

Don't say things you don't mean!!

But it was so cute...

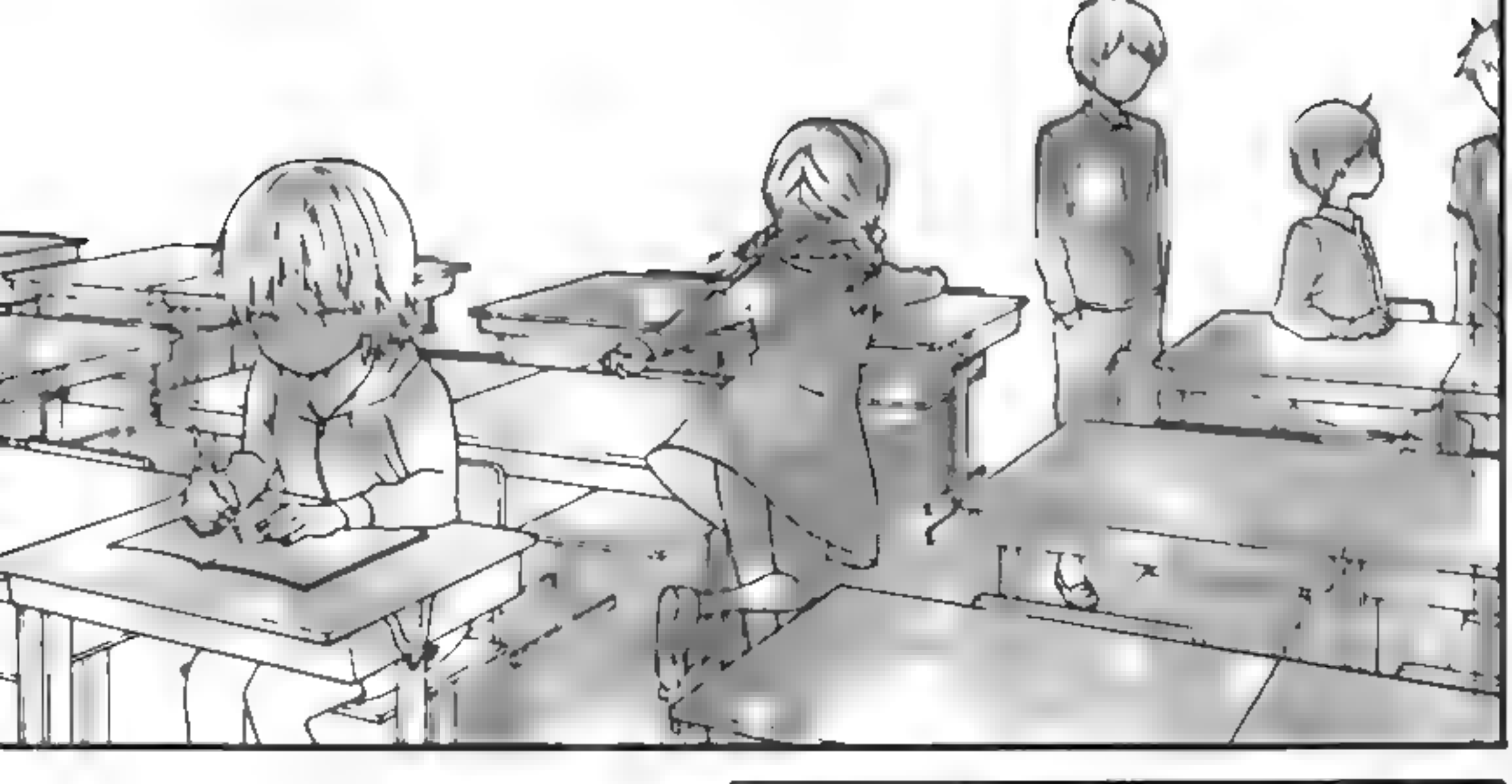
with that
hairstyle.

Mao
never came
to school

After
that

Like taking
back a toy

someone
stole from
you.



one rainy day.

My parents died

reminds me of things I'd rather forget.

The smell of it

Since then I've hated the rain.

The sister who bawled her eyes out.

The brother who never shed a single tear.

as she stood by my side

She never said a single word

shielding me from more than just the rain

But no one will ever know how much that meant to me

THANKS, AUNTIE.

HERE'S YOUR DINNER.

so I could repay their kindness.

so I could eventually make a life for myself

I worked hard

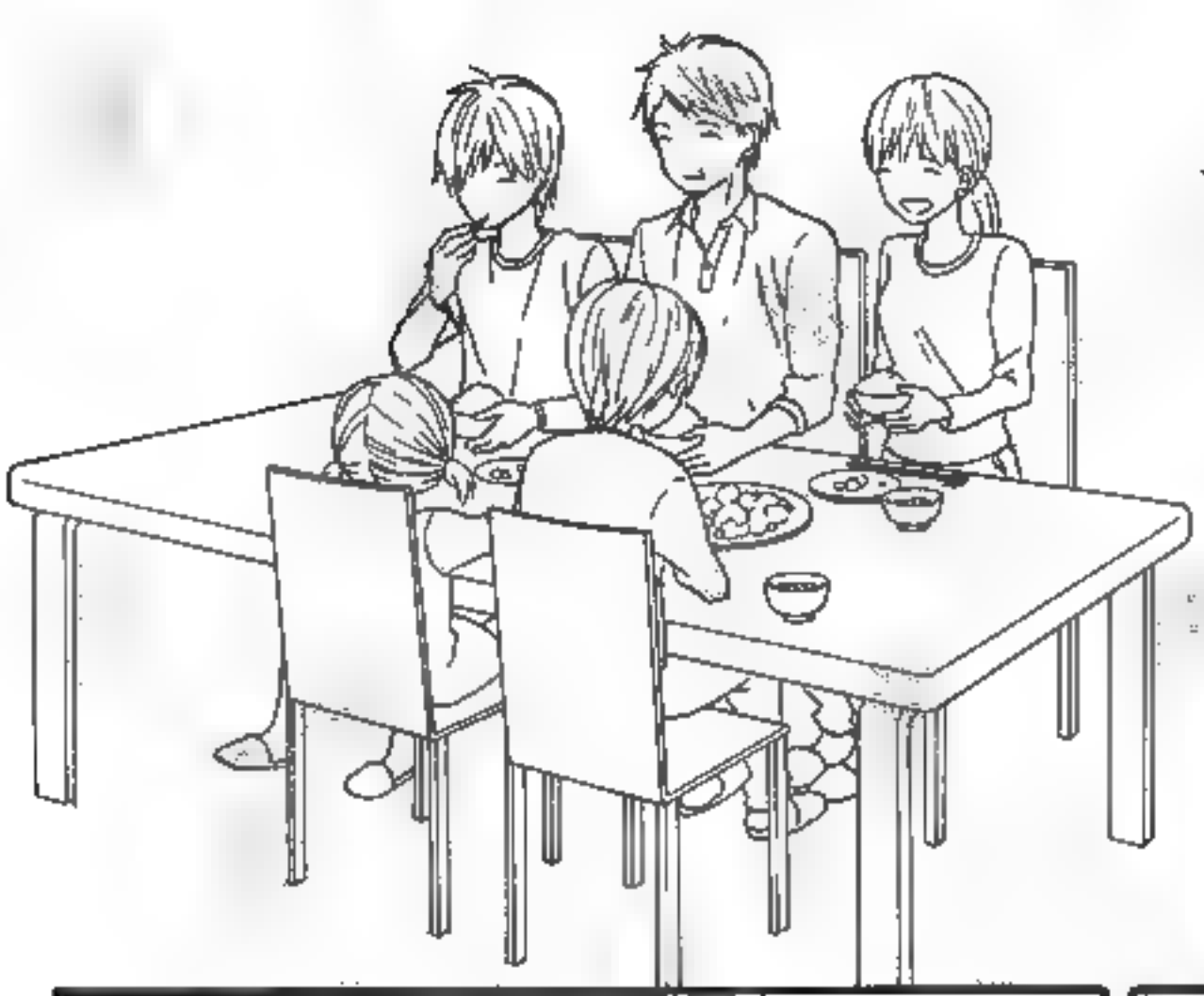
I went to stay with my uncle's family shortly after that.

It's not like

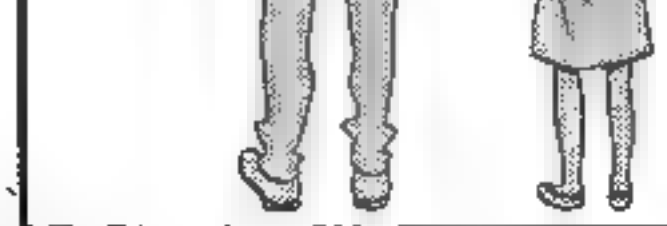
My eyesight gets worse on rainy days...

I didn't have the courage to go back and face reality.

That house without my parents.



I didn't want to live with Hiro and Hina.



I just couldn't bring myself to live in that house.

It was my second year of high school when Hiro told me that Mao started living at our house.

HAVE FUN WITH HIRO-KUN.

I couldn't even remember her face.

SO YOU'RE CHECKING OUT A UNIVERSITY

AND VISITING YOUR PARENTS' GRAVE?

To be honest I had completely forgotten about her.

ぱたぱた

ぱたぱた

Even though I couldn't remember

I just knew

WOAH, IS THAT YOU DAIKI?

it was her.

YEAH, IT'S ME.

When I saw her for the first time

DID YOU THINK I'D BE THE SAME HEIGHT AS WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?

You're just short.

YOU'RE SO TALL! I COULD BARELY TELL!

Do you think it's okay to live with someone like this!?

What were you thinking, Hirol?

HOLD ON A SEC.

AH, WANT SOME TEA?

YEAH.

IS HIRO STILL AT WORK?

I FINALLY REMEMBERED WHERE IT IS.

I SEE.

Her skin is flawless

and she's grown her hair out.

No matter how you try to look at it, you're living with a full-fledged woman!!

What the heck?

I'M FINE.

DON'T BOTHER.

Always did her best to meet her way

But if I were to sum up Mac in a single sentence

ARE THOSE

STOP COOKING!

Always

I would say that she always did her best!

Always

Always

IT'S A PARTY.

WE DID OUR BEST TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE ONE.

ガヤガヤ…

HEY WAKE UP!

WE HAVE TO EAT ALL THIS, YOU KNOW!

Gross.

AND WHAT'S WITH ALL THE DECO-RATION?

YOU'RE IDIOTS FOR STAYING UP ALL NIGHT TO MAKE THIS.

Before I knew it, I was able to laugh in this house again.

HAPPI-NESS!!

YOU NEED TO RELEASE SOME OF THAT PENT UP ENERGY FROM LAST NIGHT.

YOU LOOK CONSTIPATED WHEN YOU SAY THAT.

GOOD IDEA.

WANNA DRAW ON HIS FACE?

IS HIRO SLEEPING?

Short little Mao

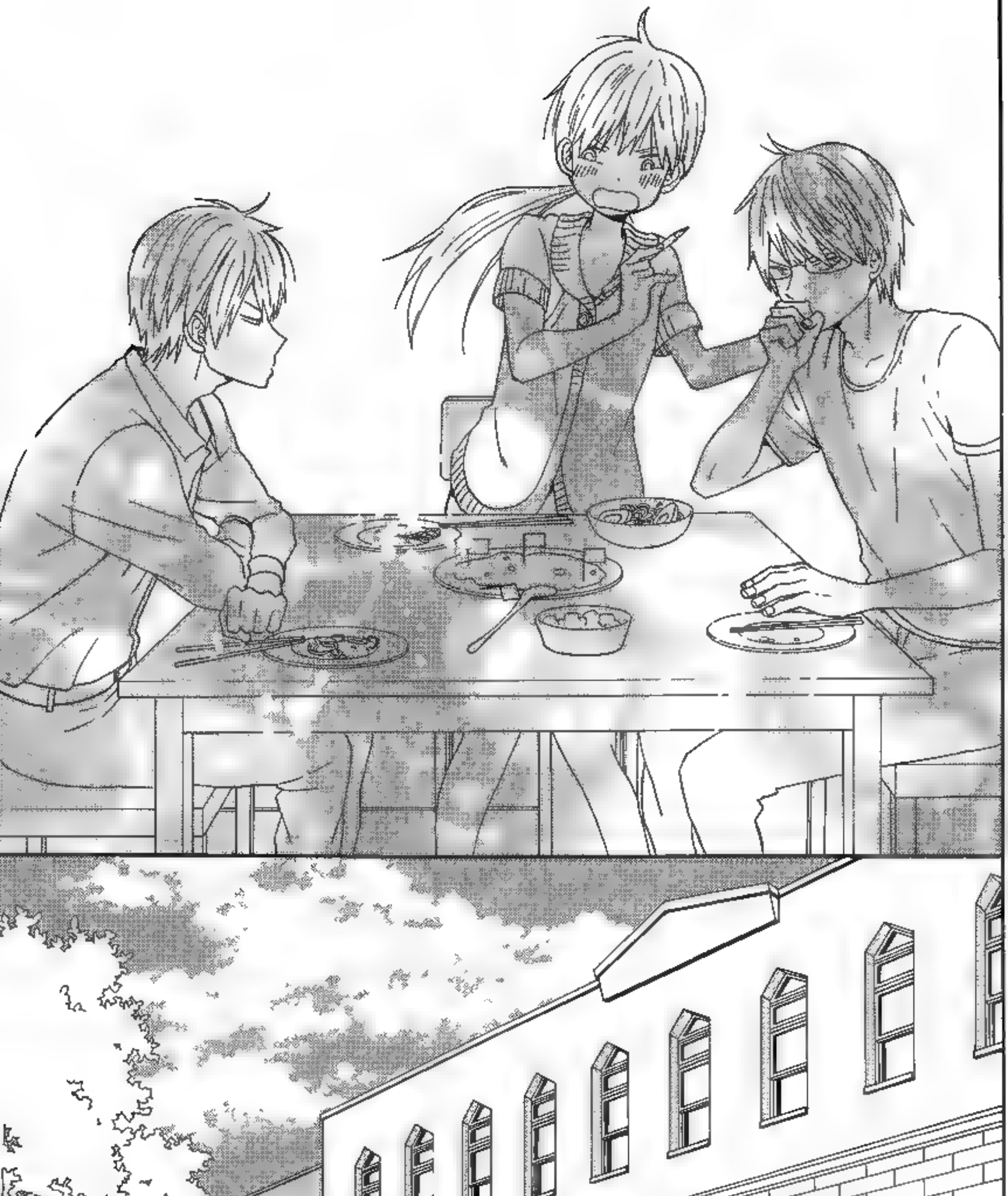
Mao

Somehow she had reached even the deepest parts of me.

beside me.

she was here

Before I knew it



I AIN'T APPLYIN' TO THAT SCHOOL.

OBVIOUSLY.

SO WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER THERE AGAIN

THAT'S GOTTA BE ROUGH.

I HEARD YA WERE TRANSFERRIN'.

WHY THE HECK AIN'TYA' GOIN'?

DON'T TALK LIKE THAT. KANSAI SOUN'S GAWD-AWFUL ON YA...

SO YA STILL APPLYIN' TER THE SAME UNI?

I'LL BE FINE, BUT I DO HAVE TO START STUDYING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS SOON.

T/N: ALL OF THE PEOPLE HERE WHERE PAIK IS TALK IN A DIALECT KNOWN AS KANSAI.

IT'S NOWHERE NEAR AS GOOD AS THIS SCHOOL.

SO WHERE YA TRANSFERRIN' TO?

I USED T'HATE THE THOUGHT OF TALKIN' LIKE THIS, BUT AH FIGGERD I'D TRY IT OUT.

IT'S JUST HOW THINGS WORKED OUT

YA GONNA BE OKAY?

I FOUND A GOOD PREP SCHOOL, SO I'LL BE FINE.

AN' I WAS JOKIN' ABOUT NOT APPLYIN'. LET'S MEET UP IN UNI AGAIN.

SERIOUSLY, STOP!! YER CREEPIN' ME OUT!!

And for Mao...

Should I get Hiro some sake?

Sweets might be better

Oh right

I should at least get them a souvenir

So I'd be giving her one of my things as a souvenir?

Hehe

I think she'd like one of my Czech cartoon DVDs.

THIS IS A WORK OF ART!!

OH, REALLY? SORRY, I COULDN'T TELL~

CREEPY...!?

ALL DONE PACKING YOUR THINGS?

LOOKS LIKE I'LL FINALLY GET TO SAY GOODBYE TO THOSE CREEPY CARTOONS OF YOURS.

GOOD LUCK CHARMS FOR YOU.

I BOUGHT A BUNCH OF

I FIGURED YOU'D HAVE MORE LUCK THAT WAY.

MY ENTRANCE EXAMS AREN'T FOR A WHILE, YOU KNOW.

AND WHY'D YOU BUY SO MANY?

DAI -CHAN!!

ﾊｯﾀ ﾀｯﾀ ﾀｯﾀ ﾀｯﾀ

ﾄﾞﾀﾄﾞﾀﾄﾞﾀﾄﾞﾀ

OH, DID I~? KAY~

OTOHA, YOU FORGOT TO CLEAN UP AFTER DINNER. COULD YOU GO DOWNSTAIRS AND DO IT?

SHE'S SLOWLY BUT SURELY BECOMING A FINE LADY.

...!!

AND HERE I WAS HOPING YOU'D MARRY HER SO YOU COULD BECOME MY SON-IN-LAW.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK SO SURPRISED.

WHERE DID THIS COME FROM?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY REPAY...?

AUNTIE... I PROMISE I'LL REPAY YOU FOR EVERYTHING.

IS THIS ABOUT MONEY?

IF SO, I DON'T WANT IT.

THE VERY THOUGHT IS INSULTING.

YEAH.

THANKS.

THERE'S NOTHING I CAN SAY

THAT WOULD EXPRESS HOW GRATEFUL I AM.

SEEING YOU CHASE AFTER YOUR DREAMS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.

BUT DON'T FORGET TO THINK ABOUT US ONCE IN A WHILE, KAY?

DOESN'T REALLY MATTER IF YOU LIKE 'EM OR HATE 'EM

I JUST WANT TO GET A LOOK AT THE PERSON WHO CHANGED YOU IS ALL.

YOU'RE FINALLY ABLE TO GO BACK THANKS TO THEM, RIGHT?

OH COME ON!! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!!

INTRODUCE ME TO YOUR GIRL NEXT TIME, KAY?

I don't want to admit it!

SHUT UP!! THAT WAS AGES AGO!!

SEEING AS YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A COWARD.

But

I'LL MAKE YOU A CAKE.

IF YOU AREN'T TIRED COME DOWNSTAIRS.

Mao again.

I wanna see

Damn it.

9月

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
	Naoki comes back	Oct	25th!		2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 X	16 X	17 X
18 X	19 X	20 X	21 X	22 X	23 X	24 X
25 X	26 X	27 X	28 X	29	30	

SURE, BUT THE DAYS AREN'T GOING TO GO BY ANY FASTER.

BUT WE'VE COMPLETED THE FIRST PHASE IN THE NAKAMURA FAMILY RESTORATION PLAN (NFRP)!!

IT'S STILL A WAYS OFF 'TIL DAIKI COMES BACK, HUH.

HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GOING TO LOOK AT THE CALENDAR BEFORE YOU'RE SATISFIED?

BY THE WAY, WHERE IS DAIKI GOING TO SCHOOL?

WERE YOU GUYS KEEPING IT A SECRET FROM ME!?

NOPE.

WAIT, YOU DON'T KNOW!?

HE'S GOING TO YOUR SCHOOL, MAO.

I JUST THOUGHT WE'D ALREADY TOLD YOU.

WE WEREN'T NECESSARILY TRYING TO KEEP IT A SECRET.

I SAID

HE'S GOING TO YOUR SCHOOL.

WHAT?

YOU'RE PRETTY SMART TOO, YOU KNOW.

THERE WEREN'T A LOT OF SCHOOLS ACCEPTING TRANSFER STUDENTS SO THAT'S WHY.

BUT... DAIKI'S SO SMART...!!

WHAT!?

DON'T TALK ABOUT GUYS LIKE THAT.

I CAN EASILY IMAGINE ODA-KUN BULLYING DAIKI-KUN!!

STOP THAT.

I CAN EVEN PICTURE ODA-KUN LAUGHING IN CHI-CHAN'S FACE AFTER SHE CONFESSES HER FEELINGS FOR HIM!!

TRY TO IMAGINE IT ANYWAY.

HE'S A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT TOO, YOU KNOW.

THE SAME SCHOOL AS ME...

IT'S-IT'S BEYOND THE EXTENT OF MY IMAGINA-TION...!!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO, WAKABA?

Ooh, their first strategy meeting in a while.

That makes sense.

Okay, so Chi-chan likes Oda-kun.

.....

So Daiki and Mao will be going to the same school working at the same restaurant and living in the same place...

Let's hide Oda-kun

WELL I WAS JOKING ANYWAY.

OH YEAH?

WASN'T I, CRO-QUETTE?

.....

UH, WHAT...?

I'D RATHER NOT. THE PAY'S GOOD AND IT'S A FUN JOB.

MAO,

YOU NEED TO WORK SOMEWHERE ELSE.

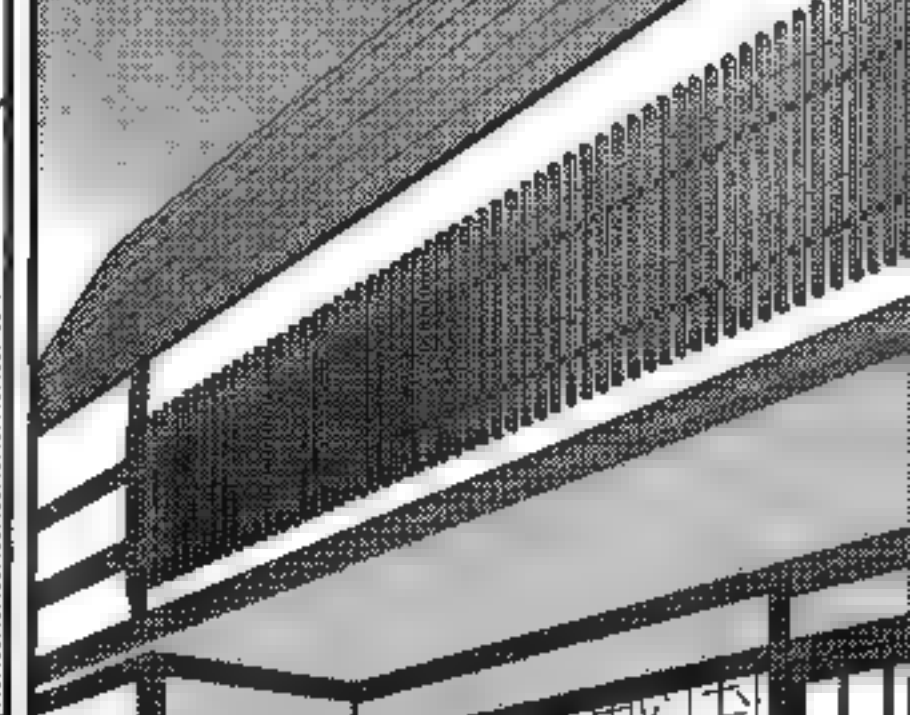
YOU LITTLE...! ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME...!? I ALREADY HAVE A FULL-TIME JOB!

YOU'D MAKE A GOOD COMMANDER...

WHY DON'T YOU TRY WORKING THERE?

WHEN YOU FIRST TOLD DAIKI ABOUT THIS JOB, YOU SAID IT WAS TUTORING!?

WHAT!?



ACTUALLY THOUGHT THAT'S WHAT HE WAS GETTING HIMSELF INTO.

THINK ABOUT IT, DAIKI DID INITIALLY SAY HE WAS GOING TO WORK AS A TUTOR

UNDER-STOOD!!

MOTOMIYA-SAN-SOMEONE'S HERE TO SEE YOU.

I SEE...

BUT STILL, AOI-KUN, I KNOW YOU DID IT TO HELP YOUR STORE, BUT THAT WAS REALLY AWFUL OF YOU!

I GUESS IT'S TRUE THAT DAIKI PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE AGREED IF HE HAD KNOWN WHAT IT REALLY WAS.

What was that about, Hiro?

I wonder if he's actually going to try and work here.

I hope he doesn't overwork himself.

Is it Hiro?

OH? I THOUGHT THEY'D STILL BE HERE, BUT I GUESS THEY LEFT ALREADY.

HM?

WHERE MIGHT THESE HONORABLE GUESTS BE?

Good work everyone-

Same to you-

without saying anything? He didn't even text me

Oh yeah. Why'd he leave

SEE YOU LATER.

Later.

EXCUSE ME.

Today was a lot of work..! Definitely looking forward to getting my first paycheck

-SAN.

RADICAL

I TRIED TO MAIL YOU FIRST, BUT I COULDN'T THINK OF WHAT I SHOULD SAY...

I'M SORRY FOR WAITING FOR YOU HERE LIKE THIS...!!

AND I'D RATHER DO THIS IN-PERSON.

WE NEED TO TALK.

KUUKAI-SAN

十二国のようでいて、いえ

6

House of the sun.
by Taamo

タアモ

22 Branching Paths

BUT I'VE WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THIS FOR A LONG TIME...

I'M REALLY SORRY FOR BEING SO PUSHY

YOU MEAN... LET NAKAMURA -SAN KNOW, RIGHT?

IF SO, THINGS ARE REALLY BUSY, SO HE'S PROBABLY GOING TO STAY OVER AT THE OFFICE

ALRIGHT. I'LL LET THEM KNOW I'LL BE A LITTLE LATE THEN.

rustle rustle

I ALREADY TOLD HIM I WAS GOING TO SEE YOU, SO IT'S FINE.

IS THAT SO...

.....

Aaaaaagh she's texting Nakamura-san

Ugh. I'll just text Hiro for the time being

click click click

AAAAAGH I hate how Radical-san knows things about Hiro I don't. And I hate how I hate it!

I-I SEE...

Just like Radical-san said it'd be...!!

Inbox

From Hiro

Subject

Hey sorry but I'm going to stay over at the office today You're having dinner with Sugimoto-san, right? Don't stay out too late

ABOUT ME SAYING...

UHM...

I'm gonna yell at Hiro in my head!!! Stupid Stupid Hiro!!

I WROTE THE NOVEL...

Y-
YEAH.

A-ARE YOU ALRIGHT...?

I'M SO SORRY!!

BAM

I WAS ALSO THINKING ABOUT MYSELF.

WHILE IT'S TRUE THAT I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO BE FOUND OUT

THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING.

A PART OF ME WANTED IT BECAUSE HIRO MIGHT LOOK MY WAY

IF I BECAME "KUUKAI-SAN..."

WHEN I TOLD HIM I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT THE NOVEL, HE INSTANTLY AGREED TO GO OUT TO EAT WITH ME.

For Hiro...

She'd go that far

LIKE HOW I'M ALWAYS FANTASIZING ABOUT COMMANDERS FROM THE WARRING STATES PERIOD.

I CAN'T CRITICIZE HIM THOUGH, I HAVE SOME WEIRD HOBBIES MYSELF.

I could even fantasize with just these chopsticks and this bowl

Instantly Agreed.. Stupid Hiro. So freakin stupid

WELL, IT IS HIRO'S DISGUSTING HOBBY.

I GUESS WE'RE TOGETHER ON THIS ONE.

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I UPLOAD ALL OF MY FANTASIES ONTO THE INTERNET...

I'M SORRY

BUT PLEASE GIVE ME A LITTLE MORE TIME

BEFORE I SET THINGS STRAIGHT.

I TRIED TO TELL NAKAMURA-SAN THE TRUTH

BUT THEN I REALIZED I WOULD HAVE TO EXPLAIN WHY I LIED IN THE FIRST PLACE

AND THEN I FROZE.

I JUST WANTED TO BE THE PERSON WHO COULD MAKE HIM HAPPY.

THAT'S ALL.

...I'M NEITHER HIRO'S GIRLFRIEND NOR ANYTHING TO HIM, REALLY.

BUT I DON'T THINK ANYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO STOP ANOTHER FROM FEELING THE WAY THEY DO.

All you've got!?

AND I'LL STOP INVITING HIM USING THE NOVEL AS A PRETENSE!!

T-THEN I'LL STOP HOLDING BACK AND GIVE IT ALL I'VE GOT!!

KUUKAI -SAN...

THOUGH HE MAY HAVE ALREADY REALIZED HOW I FEEL ABOUT HIM...!!

gulp

SHOCK

He has no idea!?

THAT'S HOW IT WAS FOR ME.

Wish you the best of luck??

I... WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK...

BUT JUST SO YOU KNOW, HIRO'S EXTREMELY DENSE SO HE MAY NOT REALIZE YET.

SHOCK

HE REFUSED THOUGH.

APPARENTLY I EVEN INVITED HIM INTO MY HOUSE WHEN HE TOOK ME HOME WHEN I WAS DRUNK.

UHM... ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT...? I'VE BEEN WORKING REALLY HARD AT IT, YOU KNOW.

ISN'T IT DANGEROUS FOR SOMEONE TO BE THAT DENSE?

.....

WHEN I TOLD HIM I LIKED HIM HE HAD THIS STUPIDLY SURPRISED LOOK ON HIS FACE.

I'VE ALREADY TAKEN BACK MY CONFESSION, AND ALTHOUGH I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE THAT MY FEELINGS THEN WERE LOVE

DON'T WORRY. THAT'S HOW I'VE FELT SINCE DAY ONE.

OH DEAR, I'M STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE FRUSTRATED.

BUT WHEN YOU LIKE HIM, WHAT CAN YOU DO?

and interests

Our feelings

MY LADY, MIGHT I INTEREST YOU IN OUR NEW DATE MASAMUNE SPECIALS?

I'M FAMISHED.

I THINK I'LL ORDER FROM THE MAA-KUN MENU

AND KUUKAI-SAN, I SEE YOU'VE SWITCHED TO WORK MODE

NEW!?

are so alike

to share an honest smile with her?

that I can't bring myself

but why is it

-If only we hadn't liked the same person

just maybe

maybe

things would have been different

Hey~

Mornin'

G-GOOD MORNING, CHI-CHAN.

Smile

Smile

MORNIN'

.....

.....

I'M OKAY NOW.

STILL HURT, BUT I'M OKAY.

HM?

MAO, YOU KNOW I

AND I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT HOW I NEED TO MOVE ON AND FIND SOMEONE ELSE!!

YEAH.

HIRO'S BROTHER?

WELL... HIRO'S YOUNGER BROTHER IS TRANSFERRING HERE SOON, SO I COULD INTRODUCE YOU TO HIM.

YEAH!! IF YOU KNOW ANY GUYS, PLEASE INTRODUCE ME TO THEM!!

SOMEONE ELSE?

GLASSES, HUH.

HE CAN BE A BIT RUDE SOMETIMES, BUT HE HAS GOOD TASTE!!

YEAH!! HE'S A NICE GUY, AND LOOKS GOOD IN GLASSES!! HE'S REALLY SMART TOO!!

CONTACTS, HUH.

HE DOES THAT AT HIS JOB!!

HE'LL WEAR CONTACTS IF YOU DON'T LIKE GLASSES.

YOU KNOW,

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIRO-SAN BEFORE.

.....

THAT'S FINE, MAO!!

There's no one else I can introduce besides these two

DO YOU HAVE ANY PICTURES OF THEM, THOUGH?

BECAUSE I'VE NEVER SHOWED YOU HIM

I-I'LL INTRODUCE HIM TOO...!! AS A POSSIBLE LOVE CANDIDATE!!

IT'S NOT MY FAULT CROQUETTE IS JUST *SO* ADORABLE.

WAIT, THESE ARE ALL PICTURES OF YOUR DOG!! I CAN ONLY SEE FROM THE NECK DOWN!! NOW YOU'RE JUST TORTURING ME!!

CUTE!!

ABSOLUTELY ADORABLE!!

PFF

TODAY HIRO'S OFF FROM WORK, SO MAYBE—

AH

Ahahaha

YOU'RE TERRIBLE!

ODA-KUN.

G-

clench

GOOD MORNING!

MORNING

AHH...

IT'S SURE RARE FOR TRANSFERS THIS TIME OF THE YEAR

AH BUT

MAO TOLD ME ABOUT IT EARLIER.

DID YOU HEAR? SOMEONE'S TRANSFERRING TO OUR SCHOOL.

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT! JUST GO HIDE IN SOME HOLE!!

MAYBE I'LL GET TO MAKE A [illegible]?

JUST WATCH ME! WE'LL DEFINITELY BECOME FRIENDS!

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT GRADES~

BECAUSE YOU'RE PROBABLY TOO STUPID FOR HIM. I DOUBT HE'D EVEN BOTHER WITH YOU

I'M NOT HALF-BAD, YOU KNOW.

WHY NOT?

So I guess she really has given up on Oda-kun.

Chi-chan's back to normal

LATER.

nothing ever happened between them.

acting like

And Oda-kun's

CHI
-CHAN...

DID I
DO IT?

JUST AS
GOOD AS
ODA-KUN
DID?

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU!? AREN'T YOU JUST AS HURT...!?

ODA -KUN,

I CAN TELL YOU'RE TRYING TO PUT ON A STRONG FRONT SO YOU DON'T HURT ANYONE.

...I WONDER IF WE CAN GO BACK TO BEING FRIENDS.

Grab

I PROMISE I'LL GIVE UP ON YOU, SO...

It seemed as though Chi-chan's tears

said more

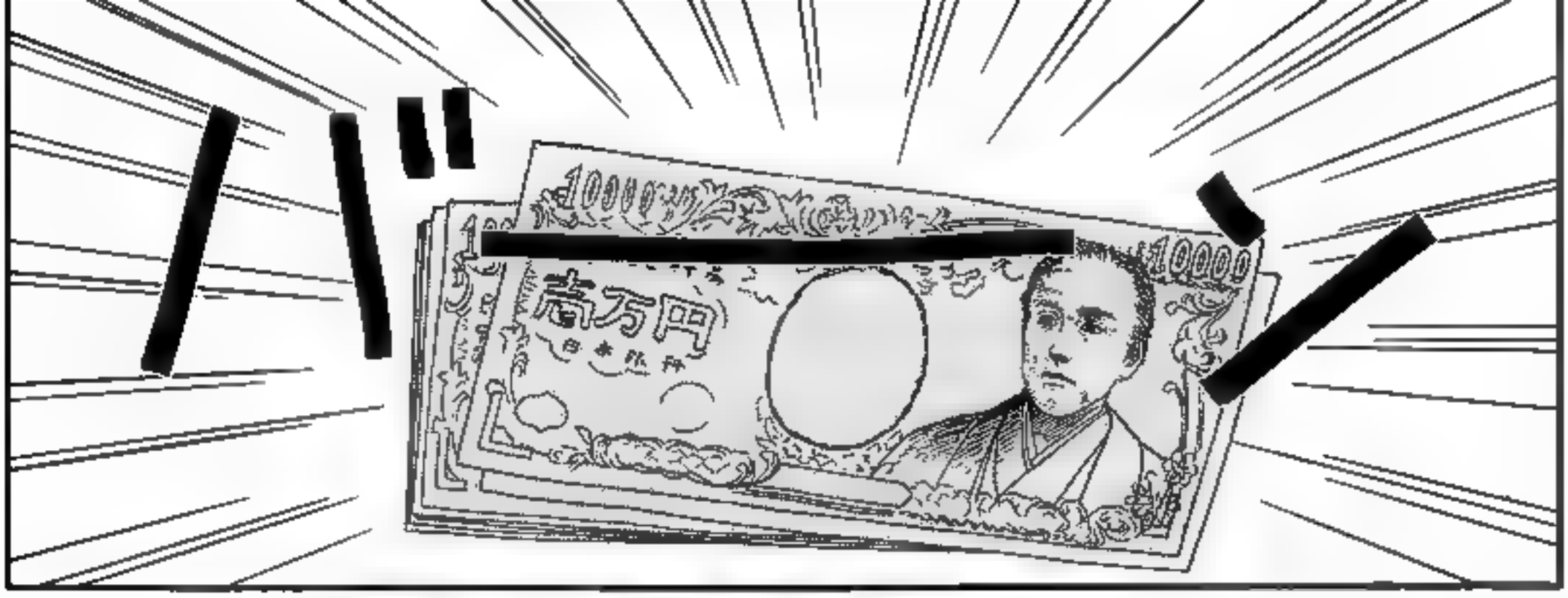
than words could ever say

I guess

it was silly of me

to think Chi-chan would just

give up on Oda-kun like that.


!!
!!
Daiki's coming home soon..!!
I need to tell Chi-chan to save that one fallen warrior apartment for me!!
FLIP
I bet he sensed the awesomeness of my hard work
I'll surprise him by giving him some money!!
DOOONG
Speak of the devil a text from Hiro..
Jobs are awesome..!!
I... I'm rich!!
Hiro will be so amazed..!!

Your mother-in-law wants to come over today. What do you wanna do? Personally, I'd like to talk to her

Inbox

Re: Hiro

I'M HOME.

WELCOME BACK, MAO-CHAN.

ガタン

MAO.

WELCOME HOME.

WILL YOU COME HOME?

I TALKED WITH NAKAMURA -SAN EARLIER.

WHA...

want me to go too?

Does Hiro

EVEN JUST A DAY OR TWO AT FIRST. WE'LL TAKE IT SLOW.

YOU CAN STAY HOWEVER LONG YOU WANT.

I JUST WANT OUR HOUSE TO BE THE PLACE YOU KNOW YOU CAN ALWAYS COME BACK TO.

I KNOW.

BUT I WANT TO GET TO KNOW YOU.

BUT I WANT TO LIVE ON MY OWN...

I WANT YOU TO GET TO KNOW YOUR LITTLE SISTER TOO.

YOUR FATHER...

WANTS IT TOO.

...WHAT ABOUT DAD...?

WHAT...

Liar.

I'll

I'LL COME BACK.

Dad will sign the papers for me. I just know he will.

Looks like it's decided— I'll be living on my own from now on...!

BUT JUST... JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

to come back

who wants me

there's someone

And at least

THANK YOU, MAO-CHAN.

THANK YOU.

for me coming back makes her feel?

saying "thank you"

I wonder how

I guess I made her worry

makes her feel?

I wonder how living in that house

Hiro too.

WELL, IF I WANT TO LIVE ON MY OWN

I'LL NEED THEIR SIGNATURE.

THAT'S WHY I'M GOING BACK.

YOU'RE FINALLY MAKING PROGRESS.

ISN'T THAT GREAT?

HERE YOU GO

OH RIGHT. HIRO

...

But I'll just get rejected in the end anyway

WHY ARE YOU STILL THINKING ABOUT THAT?

ESPECIALLY AFTER ALL SHE DID SO YOU COULD STAY WITH THEM.

WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THIS?

.....

I KNOW HOW AMAZING IT IS THAT SHE CARES FOR ME EVEN THOUGH SHE'S NOT MY REAL MOM.

I KNOW.

YOUR DAD'S BEEN PAYING ALL ALONG, SO I DON'T NEED THIS.

DON'T GIVE ME THAT!

IT'S MY LIVING EXPENSES

I'M GOING TO TRY MY BEST!

MAO!

.....

ALL I'VE DONE

IS UPSET YOU AND HER.

...THEN I GUESS THIS'LL GO TOWARDS MY NEW APARTMENT.

SO I CAN EVENTUALLY STAND ON EVEN GROUND WITH HIM.

I'M GOING TO WORK REALLY HARD FROM NOW ON

So I can eventually stand on even ground with Hiro.

BUT

IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT,

I'LL JUST LIVE ON MY OWN.

OR WORRY ANYONE.

I KNOW THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A BOTHER

MAO.

IS WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE WITH SOMEONE.

THAT'S HOW YOU ARE,

BUT MAKING PEOPLE WORRY AND BEING A BOTHER

SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT ALL THAT STUFF.

IT'S THE SAME AS BEING ALONE IF YOU DON'T SHARE ANYTHING WITH THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.

THINK I WOULD HAVE TOLD DAIKI AND HINA ABOUT HOW I FELT IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU. I WOULDN'T BE WHERE I AM NOW

I DON'T

IF YOU HADN'T WORRIED ABOUT ME.

helped Hiro?

I'm glad.

I WON'T GIVE UP UNTIL THINGS WORK OUT.

THANKS HIRO. I FEEL A LOT BETTER KNOWING THAT.

OKAY.

Mao is trying to move forward.

Why do I feel so upset?

OKAY.

I'M GOING TO CHANGE.

TONIGHT'S MY TURN TO MAKE DINNER!!

Mao would have to leave this place.

that one day

I always knew

do I feel like this?

So why

CHAPTER 23

Fleeting Return

MEET YOU~♥

NICE TO

HEY.

H-

I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU, SO I'M GLAD TO FINALLY MEET YOU.

NO WORRIES. COME INSIDE.

SORRY FOR SHOWING UP UNANNOUNCED, BUT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET MAO TO INTRODUCE US FOR AGES.

Wow, two high school girls on my doorstep...

I have no idea how this little adventure will end

I wanted them to meet before Daiki came back and I went back home.

Oh, and here, I got this for you.

You guys are childhood friends, right?

Chi-chan came over to Hiro's house.

Even though it's not

It's like I invited her to my own house

having Chi-chan at Hiro's house.

It feels strange

HEY. GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THE CLOUDS!!

I wonder if that was a bit rude of me

Hey!! She's totally sizing me up here. Mao!! Save me!!

I wonder, what could your yearly salary be? Oh whatever could it be~?

WOW~ SO THAT'S WHAT YOU DO.

BUT HE'S DEFINITELY DIFFERENT FROM GUYS AT SCHOOL.

I'M SO JEALOUS.

MATURE? I GUESS... I SEE HIM EVERY DAY, SO I DON'T REALLY KNOW.

So that's what being 24's like.

I HAD NO IDEA HIRO-SAN WOULD BE SO MATURE...

BUT ONLY ONE OF THOSE THINGS EVEN APPLIED TO HIM.

KYA~~!! HE'S SO MATURE!!

YEAH.

HMM, WHAT ELSE IS THERE? DOES HE DRINK?

NOPE.

DOES HE SMOKE?

NO, HE DOESN'T DRIVE.

DOES HE HAVE A CAR!?

YOU SO TOTALLY ARE. YOU EVEN MAKE THE SAME FACIAL EXPRESSIONS.

WHAT!? NO WE AREN'T!!

YOU AND HIRO-SAN ARE KIND OF SIMILAR TOO.

BUT YOU KNOW, SINCE YOU STARTED LIVING HERE

YOU'VE GOTTEN A LOT BETTER AT NOT BEING SO RUDE.

YEAH...

HE IS.

It's no use!! I can't stop smiling when I talk about Hiro...!

C'MON MAO, GIVE HIRO-SAN A BREAK!!

EVERYONE IN HIS FAMILY IS TALL. HIS BROTHER IS WAY TALLER!!

HIRO-SAN'S REALLY TALL TOO. LIKE, THIS BIG!

HE SEEMS REALLY NICE.

ANYWAY MAO, YOU NEED TO KEEP SOME PROTECTION HANDY.

ALTHOUGH HIRO-SAN PROBABLY HAS SOME ALREADY.

STOP IT, CHIHIRO.

Lemme see!!

YOU CAN'T HIDE THAT SMILE FROM ME!!

IT'S NOT COHABI-TATION!!

Sigh

COHABITATING WITH THE PERSON YOU LIKE... MUST BE NICE...

!?

THAT SOUNDS ROUGH.

BUT DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU CURIOUS?

YOU ALWAYS SEEM TO END UP TALKING ABOUT THIS KIND OF STUFF LATELY, YOU KNOW.

EVEN SO!! I'M ONLY TELLING YOU THIS BECAUSE I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

B-B-BUT WE'RE NOT LIKE THAT!!

WHAT!?

I REALLY WANNA DO IT.

LIKE, TO SEE HOW IT FEELS.

IT WAS PRETTY EXPENSIVE, AND THEN HER PARENTS FOUND OUT...

SHE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IF HER BOYFRIEND WAS THE FATHER OR NOT.

YOU KNOW, ONE OF THE GIRLS IN OUR CLASS HAD AN ABORTION.

REALLY? YOU DON'T WANT TO TOUCH IT?

スト"

I DON'T KNOW, I'VE NEVER REALLY GIVEN IT MUCH THOUGHT

BOTH OF US ARE BEHIND SCHEDULE, YOU KNOW!!

EVERYONE'S DOING IT ALREADY!!

UGH...

poke poke ♡poke♡

MAYBE POKE IT?

.....

Don't touch me there!!

AAAH!

BESIDES, EVEN IF YOU WEREN'T READY FOR IT YET, YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RUN AWAY IF HE WENT AND JUMPED ON YOU LIKE THIS!!

I'll come back later

So this is what high school girls talk about...

S-

UGH. I'M GOING TO GET SOME TEA.

ガチャ

YOU DID, DIDN'T YOU!?

HEAR WHAT?

DID YOU HEAR US?

WHAT'S WRONG, MAO?

WE'RE FINE!! JUST FORGET YOU HEARD ANYTHING!!

I WAS GOING TO ASK IF YOU WANTED SOME SNACKS.

?

Owowow!!

Stop it!!

PLEASE DO THOSE THINGS *AFTER* I LEAVE!!

HIRO -SAN!!

DAIKI'S COMING HOME SOONER THAN EXPECTED, SO I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW ASAP.

Girls are way too perverted!

WAIT, THIS ISN'T WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!

YOU'VE GOT A LOT ON YOUR PLATE, HUH?

ONLY TWO MORE DAYS 'TIL YOU GO BACK TO YOUR DAD'S HOUSE.

I KNOW, RIGHT?

REALLY?

THAT'S AWESOME.

JUST FOR A DAY.

HUH?

YOU'RE GOING BACK?

GOOD LUCK, MAO.

I SEE.

THANKS.

Motomiya

I went back to my house for the first time in a very long time.

One chilly day in October

to say "I'm home?"

Would it be okay

What a strange

fear

HYAKUME*! IT'S SO CUTE!

YEP! PAPA SAID YOU LIKED THESE KIND OF THINGS.

WELCOME BACK, MAO -CHAN.

I GOT YOU SOME NEW SLIPPERS.

*A YOUKAI WITH COUNTLESS EYES ALL OVER ITS BODY. MAO LOVES IT (REFER TO 06).

I can do this

I'M HOME!

HAHA HAHA!

O-

DAD.

/Am I really seeing this?

/Aha haha

WHAT AN IDIOT.

IT LOOKS GREAT!

WOW.

M-

MAO-CHAN, LET'S EAT DINNER. I BET YOU'RE STARVING.

YOU TOO, PAPA!

.....

.....

WHAT A FEAST.

PAPA!! GET OVER HERE! YOUR FOOD'S GOING TO GET COLD!

HMM

PAPA.

I THINK I'LL EAT BY THE TV.

if he won't even talk to me?

How can I stay here

Why...?

I need to ask him about living alone.

ガタッ

I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

DAD.

YOU'LL HAVE TO SIGN THE PAPERS ONCE I DECIDE ON THE APARTMENT.

I'M STILL UNDERAGE, SO I'LL NEED MY PARENT'S CONSENT.

BUT I'VE BEEN THINKING OF LIVING ON MY OWN.

I KNOW I'VE BEEN LIVING WITH HIRO UNTIL RECENTLY

I WILL NOT LET YOU TO LIVE BY YOURSELF.

I WOULD NEVER...!

REALLY...?

YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO SAY THAT?

Why?

Then

where will I belong?

WHY WOULD YOU WANT THAT?

WHAT'S WRONG, PAPA!?

MAO -CHAN?

GOOD-NIGHT!

MAO-CHAN?

BUT IT'S NOT ALWAYS LIKE THIS.

IT LOOKS LIKE HE DRANK TOO MUCH.

I'M SORRY.

MAO-CHAN.

DON'T GIVE UP.

YOU KNOW,

IT MIGHT NOT SEEM LIKE IT, BUT YOUR DAD SAID THAT BECAUSE HE CARES ABOUT YOU.

You can do it.

Mao

I WON'T.

Oh, right

I need to let Hiro know I'm doing okay.

I'm sure he's worried.

What should I say?

click click

Stupid Hiro.)`-(

click

THANKS.

You're the stupidest stupid. Stupid

What did you call me?

click click click

Inbox
From Hiro
No, you're stupid.

7"

Inbox
From Hiro
Don't push yourself too hard, stupid

Stupid.

I want to see you.

probably going all crybaby right now.

Mao's

Maybe it's because things have been so hectic recently that I forgot

that I was trying to push these feelings away since Mom and Dad died.

It's kinda lonely

First time by myself in a while

OH?

WHAT'S THAT AROUND YOUR NECK?

at least I have Croquette and Wakaba-chan

and the beer is good.

Well

DID MAO PUT THIS ON YOU?

YOU POOR THING.

IT'S SO LAME.

in this house.

of Mao

traces

There are

Well,

whatever.

Hiro

see me too?

want to

Do you

WHY DID THAT COME OFF AS A QUESTION?

WELCOME BACK, MAO.

I'M HOME?

OKAY?

JUST WELL, YOU KNOW.

.....

SO HOW DID IT GO?

AHHH

YEAH I AM, BUT IF YOU WANT TO HELP, YOU HAVE TO GET THE MEASUREMENTS RIGHT. YOU HAVE A HABIT OF TURNING FOOD TO POISON.

LET ME HELP.

ARE YOU MAKING THESE DESSERTS FOR DAIKI'S WELCOME HOME PARTY?

WHAT?

LIVE ON MY OWN.

WELL,

MY DAD WOULDN'T LET ME

What is that old man thinking...?

That's unexpected.

I was so sure he'd agree.

YOU ARE STILL A HIGH SCHOOLER AFTER ALL.

...

I SEE... BUT YOU'RE PROBABLY IN TOO MUCH OF A HURRY ANYWAY.

I'M THINKING OF JUST COMING BACK

YEAH ALSO SO

I WANT TO KEEP AT IT TOO.

GOING BACK WAS [illegible] A SHORT WHILE,

BUT MY STEP-MOM'S TRYING REALLY HARD,

OKAY

.....

IT MAY NOT SEEM LIKE I'M DOING THAT MUCH

BUT FOR ME, IT'S A HUGE STEP.

Just live here...!

IT'LL DEFINITELY TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE I GET THROUGH TO MY DAD

BUT UNTIL THEN, PLEASE LET ME STAY HERE A LITTLE LONGER.

SORRY.

...is what I want to say.

YOU'RE POURING TOO FAST

THERE'S SOME ON YOUR FACE.

MM

HIRO?

all I want is for her to just give up

I'm such a disgusting hypocrite! I want to support her, but at the same time

WHAT'S WRONG?

HIRO?

I'M GOING TO TURN INTO FLOUR.

hug

WERE YOU LONELY?

.....

MM

THAT'S FINE WITH ME.

BUT I WAS ALWAYS ALONE UNTIL YOU CAME.

YEAH.

IT'S STRANGE.

I'm such a liar.

YEAH.

BUT DAIKI IS COMING TOMORROW.

SO IT'LL BE OKAY.

I wasn't lonely at all.

I wasn't
lonely.

It's just
that

Mao
wasn't here.

That's all.

What
should I do?

We're so close,
and yet I want
to be closer

kiss

.....

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.

WHAT WAS THAT FOR!?

PU—SH

OW!

SMACK

TO MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER!!

I DID IT B-BECAUSE YOU SEEMED LONELY!!

AH!

L-LET GO OF ME!!

SO THIS IS WHAT YOU'LL DO WHEN I'M LONELY?

HMMMM.

LOOK AT ME.

NEED TO THINK ABOUT

YOU

HOW IT MAKES PEOPLE FEEL

WHEN YOU DO THIS TO THEM.

SMACK

OW!

THAT WAS REVENGE.

I'M GOING TO THE SHRINE!!

THAT'S RANDOM!!

I DID,

BUT YOU STARTED IT.

YOU KISSED ME!

WHY AREN'T YOU SAYING ANYTHING!?

NO, STAY HERE! I'M IN WAY MORE DANGER WITH YOU!!

.....

I'LL GO TOO.

IT'S NOT SAFE GOING OUT BY YOURSELF.

I can't control myself anymore.

OKAY.

I'M OFF.

SIGH

Thank God..!

phew

I should be able to catch the last train so I'll be arriving some time tonight.

Messages

Daiki

Edit

Hm?

Daiki!

うーん

うーん

If I can just get through today...!!

Tonight's the last day we're alone...!!

I banish you, wicked thoughts.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

MAO

24 New Beginning

DAIKI?

DIDN'T HIRO TELL YOU? I CAUGHT THE LAST TRAIN.

WEREN'T YOU COMING BACK TOMORROW?

WELCOME BACK, DAIKI.

NO.

HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THAT.

IT'S NOTHING. LET'S GO.

.....

WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU.

I'M HOME

YEAH.

スイーツ

DAIKI~

WELCOME BACK

I'M HOME.

.....

I HELPED WITH THE COOKING, SO YOU BETTER EAT ALL OF IT

YOU CAN DO IT, DAIKI. ALSO, I WON'T BE EATING ANY (BECAUSE IT'S TOO SWEET).

I WAS JUST SO EXCITED THAT YOU WERE COMING BACK.

...BUT UHH, WHY ARE THERE SO MANY DESSERTS!?

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME!?

DID YOU TURN INTO AN OLD LADY!? THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN EAT ALL THIS!!

.....

AND THAT COUNTS AS HELPING?

ポン

CALM DOWN! SHE ONLY POURED THE FLOUR.

.....

YOU DON'T KNOW?

たたたっ

W-WHEN'S YOUR FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL?

PUSH

.....

It's the day after tomorrow

Alright. That's exciting.

GOOD NIGHT.

I HAVE SCHOOL TOMORROW, SO I'M GOING TO BED.

GOOD NIGHT.

.....

.....

FREEZE

UWAAA

コロコロコロ

SFX: ROLL ROLL ROLL

I like Hiro way too much...!!

Even though he's letting me stay here...

WAIT, NO!!

shake shake

IT'S TOO EMBAR-RASSING!!

Maybe I should ask Chi-chan about this...

Even though I shouldn't be...

"Really!?"

"You came all the way here just to say that?"

I wonder when I should go back next

That's why Daiki came back

Hiro never gave up

What would it take for him to talk to me?

And I'll go back too.

When I do

I'll tell Hiro my feelings again

Until then I'll just tough it out

But I hate leaving Hiro

I know it's unforgivable of me to feel this way.

I know it's selfish of me.

MAO WENT BACK TO HER DAD'S FOR A BIT.

HE DIDN'T TAKE HER WANTING TO LIVE ALONE WELL, BUT SHE'S FINALLY DECIDED TO GO BACK AND LIVE WITH HIM.

BUT SHE'S NOT GOING TO GO BACK IMMEDIATELY, ONLY FOR A LITTLE BIT AT A TIME.

.....

HMMM.

I SEE.

ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING FOR HER?

So she's really going back.

.....

THAT EXPLAINS WHY SHE WAS ACTING WEIRD EARLIER.

AAHH

NOTHING WORTH MENTIONING.

IT'S NOT THAT, IS IT?

DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO HER?

HMMM.

.....

You cheeky bastard

WOAH-

WOW!!

AH, I SEE

I THINK YOU'LL ONLY BE POPULAR AT FIRST.

ONLY AT FIRST!?

WELL THERE AREN'T A LOT OF PEOPLE AT MY SCHOOL WHO'RE AS TALL AS YOU

YOU'RE HUGE!

THAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU NOTICE!? IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE GOTTEN TALLER, YOU KNOW.

Is this what youth looks like!?

They're shining...!!!

They're like high school sweethearts!!!

W-what?

I don't want to hear that from you.

It's because you're too blunt

What is this?

I HAVE A FEELING YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY COMPLIMENTING ME!!

THAT SUIT LOOKS GREAT ON YOU.

はぃ
OKAY, BE SEATED.
GOING ON!?
PLEASE ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS HE MAY HAVE.
NAKAMURA-SAN IS A FRIEND OF YOURS, RIGHT MOTOMIYA-SAN?
WHAT IS

ARE YOUR THOUGHTS LEAKING OUT?

I CAN'T PROTECT HIM FROM ODA-KUN!! AND THEN THERE'S CHI-CHAN TO WORRY ABOUT!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS!!

Hmm Yeah, I guess it is

WHAT!! WHY!?

BECAUSE IT'S MORE CONVENIENT FOR US.

JUST SO YOU KNOW, I ASKED TO BE IN THE SAME CLASS.

HEY.

EEEK!

SO YOU'RE MOTOMIYA'S FRIEND, HUH.

...NICE TO MEET YOU.

you're huge~

I'M ODA.

I'VE BEEN IN THE SAME CLASS WITH MOTOMIYA SINCE FIRST YEAR.

FEEL FREE TO ASK ME ABOUT ANYTHING YOU DON'T GET IN CLASS.

WHAT THE HELL?

O-ODA-KUN IS ACTUALLY REALLY SMART!!

THAT'S NICE, BUT I'M DEFINITELY SMARTER!

AND HE'S GOOD-LOOKING TOO.

DON'T GIRLS USUALLY ONLY HAVE FEMALE FRIENDS!?

whisper whisper

HE'S A FRIEND?

WHAT'S WITH HIM?

AH.

GOOD-LOOKING... YEAH, I GUESS HE IS.

I FORGOT.

.....

HOW DID THIS BECOME ABOUT ME!?

But I don't have many friends Sorry...

DAIKI,

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WANTED FEMALE FRIENDS THAT BADLY...

HEY.

DAIKI.

OOOH!

IT'S THE INFAMOUS YOUNGER BROTHER!!

NICE TO MEET YOU! YOU CAN CALL ME CHIHIRO.

MAO!

LET'S PLAY!

CHI-CHAN!

Too close

YOU'RE THAT GUY'S BROTHER?

YOU DEFINITELY LOOK LIKE HIRO-SAN.

BUT YOUR HAIR COLOR'S LIGHTER...!!

SFX: STARE

I SEE.

YEAH.

AND WE KNOW THAT MAO'S LIVING WITH HIM, SO DON'T WORRY.

YOU GUYS KNOW ABOUT HIRO?

AND YOU'RE JUST GOING TO SAY THAT IN FRONT OF ME?

BUT I'M REALLY WORRIED! YOU'RE LIVING WITH TWO GUYS!

MAO, I'M HAPPY FOR YOU

AND ODA-KUN IS JUST KIND OF HERE.

NO I'M NOT!

I TOLD CHI-CHAN BECAUSE SHE'S MY BEST FRIEND.

I ALREADY SAID WHAT I MEANT!!

WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN!?

OH WOW... SO YOUR LIFE IS TURNING INTO A SHOUJO MANGA...

SOUNDS LIKE A MANGA MY BIG SIS WOULD READ

.....

I KIND OF WANT TO ASK WHY YOU KNOW THAT.

.....

.....

HM?

MAO, SHOW ME AROUND THE SCHOOL.

カリ

LATER.

What do you mean "my perspective"?

NO, THAT'S FINE. I WANT TO SEE THE SCHOOL FROM MAO'S PERSPECTIVE, SO TO SPEAK

YOU CAN SHOW ME AROUND SOME OTHER TIME.

LET ME COME TOO!

WAHA HA...

IT'S CRAZY, HUH? HOW DAIKI'S IN THE SAME CLASS AS MAO AND YOU.

.....

MUST BE NICE. I WISH I WAS IN THE SAME CLASS AS YOU GUYS TOO.

YEAH.

I'M ALSO SURPRISED THAT HE'S THAT GUY'S BROTHER.

WHAT? WHY?

YEAH.

THOUGH IT'D BE NICE IF JUST YOU WERE IN A DIFFERENT CLASS.

IT'D BE NICE IF WE COULD ALL BE TOGETHER NEXT YEAR.

I'M GOING BACK TO MY CLASSROOM.

I still like you.

It's hopeless

Because I still want to see you.

That's why I always come to your classroom.

Well, that was exhausting...

SFX: IRRITATED

イライラ

And somehow that made Mao cuter

Stop w th the bathrooms'

That was absolutely pointless.

And here's the bathroom on the 3rd floor

I wasn't expecting a detailed tour of every bathroom in the entire school

They're all n the same exact place on every floor anyway

Happy Mode

KOBE?! GOSH THAT'S LIKE, SO CRAZY!

KOBE.

Oh, right... This is a co-ed school which means these girls are going to really tire me out...

HEY NAKAMURA -KUN, WHERE DID YOU MOVE FROM?

What's so crazy about it.?

Kyoo-

That's good-

WE USED TO PLAY TOGETHER A LOT WHEN WE WERE KIDS, THOUGH

FRIENDS ...NO, I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR.

SO YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH MOTOMIYA-SAN?

SO THEN, DO YOU KNOW IF SHE'S DATING ODA-KUN?

a matchmaking agency or something

some small nuisance.

YAY~

SHE'S NOT.

.....

SHUT UP! WHY DID SOMEONE ASK ME WHETHER YOU WERE DATING ODA OR NOT?

DON'T SQUANDER THAT TEMPORARY POPULARITY OF YOURS!

I TURNED HIM DOWN!!

N-NO, WE'RE NOT!

ARE YOU ACTUALLY DATING HIM?

WHAT?

really is a matchmaking agency...

Oh God. This place

Ugh... My eyes hurt...

They should be at school by now...

カタカタ

カタカタ

YOU SEEM KIND OF STRESSED TODAY.

NAKAMURA -SAN.

I hope everything is going okay

そわ

カタ カタ

THOSE WERE NAKAMURA -SAN'S?

HE MADE TOO MANY DESSERTS FOR THE WELCOME PARTY SO HE BROUGHT THE LEFTOVERS TODAY.

NEW SCHOOL?

SO HE CAME BACK?

AHH... WELL YOU SEE, TODAY IS MY BROTHER'S FIRST DAY AT HIS NEW SCHOOL...

I should've eaten more..!! I should've gobbled them all up...!!

Nakamura -san's hand-made desserts...

THE CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG~

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TELL HER THAT

カタ カタ カタ

I LOVE COOKING, BUT I'VE NEVER TRIED MAKING DESSERTS BEFORE, SO...

SO GOOD THAT I'D LOVE IT IF YOU COULD... SHOW ME HOW TO BAKE SOME TIME.

THANKS...

UHM... THEY WERE DELICIOUS...!!

There's no way I'm letting more people know about Mao...!

SHOCK

NONO NONO!

I WANNA GO TO NAKAMURA'S HOUSE TOO!

HAWAII!

GUAM!

Hahaha

OVERSEAS IS A NO-GO.

KEEP IN MIND, THEY'RE JUST SUGGESTIONS

EVERY-ONE,

I'M TAKING SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS YEAR'S RETREAT LOCATION.

UHM.

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO, MY DEAR?

YOU'RE ASKING... ME?

UNFORTUNATELY LONDON AND PARIS ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION.

SENDAI...

LET'S GO TO SENDAI...!!

Sounds good~

We'll go where Sugimoto wants to go~

EVERYBODY OKAY WITH SENDAI?

...I LIKE IT!

Sendai, huh.

That's where Hina is

I should visit her if we go there

I'M HOME.

ピンポーン

DON'T DO THAT. IT'S CREEPY.

YEAH, CREEPY.

WHAT IS!? WHY!?

AND YOU DON'T HAVE REPEAT IT, MAO!!

WELCOME BACK.

AH YEAH... WHY DO I EVEN BOTHER?

IT WAS BUSINESS AS USUAL.

HOW WAS SCHOOL?

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT?

I CAN BE REASONABLE TOO, YOU KNOW.

AND IT LOOKS HE'LL ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO GET ALONG WITH CHI-CHAN AND ODA-KUN.

I GUESS THERE WAS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

YOU NEVER HAD TO WORRY IN THE FIRST PLACE.

And we seem to get into strange situations when it's just me and Mao

Wanna switch seats?

Your hugeness was blocking the blackboard.

I'm so happy that Daiki came back

Above all,
this house is
shining brightly

All that's
left is Hina

YEAH,
CREEPY.

WHY
ARE YOU
SMILING?
IT'S
CREEPY.

...YOU
TWO GET
ALONG WELL
AS EVER.

And then
from there on
it'll be a new
beginning.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN MY ROOM?

I WAS WONDERING IF WE COULD STUDY TOGETHER.

THAT'S NOT WHY YOU'RE HERE.

SOMETHING HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND HIRO, RIGHT? SPILL IT.

N-NOTHING HAPPENED!!

YOU WOULDN'T BE BLUSHING IF THAT WERE REALLY TRUE.

.....

YEAH, IT'S A LITTLE TOO LATE FOR THE POKER FACE.

I GET REALLY NERVOUS WHEN IT'S JUST US.

BECAUSE IT FEELS LIKE MY FEELINGS FOR HIM WILL EXPLODE.

I SWEAR, NOTHING HAPPENED. IT'S JUST...

GO AHEAD.

NO, I DON'T MIND.

S-SORRY, I SHOULDN'T BE TALKING TO YOU ABOUT THIS.

HMMM.

YEAH...

I GUESS.

I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU ANY ADVICE, BUT AT LEAST

YOU CAN DUMP YOUR EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE ON ME THAT'S BETTER THAN EXPLODING, RIGHT?

ストーン!!

REALLY!?

EVEN THOUGH I LIKE HIRO!?

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE HIS BROTHER??

ACTUALLY, NEVER MIND!!

.....

BUT...

AH.

YOU'RE WEIRD.

I have no desire to listen to your pathetic whining anyway!

IT'S FINE IF YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT.

IS THERE SOMEONE YOU LIKE?

THERE IS.

SINCE I PLAN TO ATTACK SLOWLY.

I CAN BE PATIENT.

I DON'T WANT TO TELL YOU.

Mmm

ALSO, DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS.

I won't.

OH...

I know?

WOW!!

HMMMMM.

ATTACK...?

SOUNDS LIKE A CONTEST. ALMOST.

YEAH.

SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

WORLDLY DESIRES!?

I'LL EXORCISE MINE TOO.

ANYWAY, LET'S EXORCISE OUR WORLDLY DESIRES AND GET TO STUDYING.

ARE YOU SURE WE'RE IN THE SAME GRADE?

...WHAT THE HECK IS THIS? I DON'T GET IT.

YOU TOO...

SO WE'RE BOTH STRUGGLING, HUH.

YEAH.

A LOT.

GO
GO
you're alone in a room with a guy
...I DON'T BELIEVE THIS.
MIND NOT SLEEPING HERE?

.....
SFX: SNORE

Dumbass
You are definitely not patient

《つづく》

THANK YOU FOR RIDING THE SHINKANSEN.

YOU GUYS ARE OVERREACTING. IT'S NOT LIKE WE'LL NEVER SEE EACH OTHER EVER AGAIN.

THE TRAIN WILL BE ..

Extra Chapter

A Boy's Farewell

I figured this would happen. That's why I didn't want them to see me off

SORRY OAI-CHAN. WE WEREN'T PLANNING ON CRYING THIS MUCH.

BUT...

BUT...

THANKS AUNTIE.

HERE, EAT THIS ON THE TRAIN. I PUT ALL YOUR FAVORITES IN IT.

?

.....

YOU'VE SURE GROWN...

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT.

AND YOU USED TO ALWAYS HIDE SOMEWHERE AND CRY YOUR LITTLE EYES OUT.

IT FEELS LIKE YESTERDAY.

YOU WERE SO SMALL WHEN YOU FIRST CAME.

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE YOU'VE GOTTEN SO BIG.

OKAY. WE'LL BE WAITING.

I'LL COME BACK EVERY NOW AND THEN.

.....

STOP IT.

DAI -CHAN.

BYE.

WHAT THE HECK!?

FIGHT, DAI-CHAN! FIGHT!

FIGHT, DAI-CHAN! FIGHT!

SHEESH...

So embarrasing.

Hehehe

Hehe

It's heavy.

ゴトゴトゴトゴト

I have a feeling Hiro's also going to cook up something crazy when I get back.

having two places I can call home.

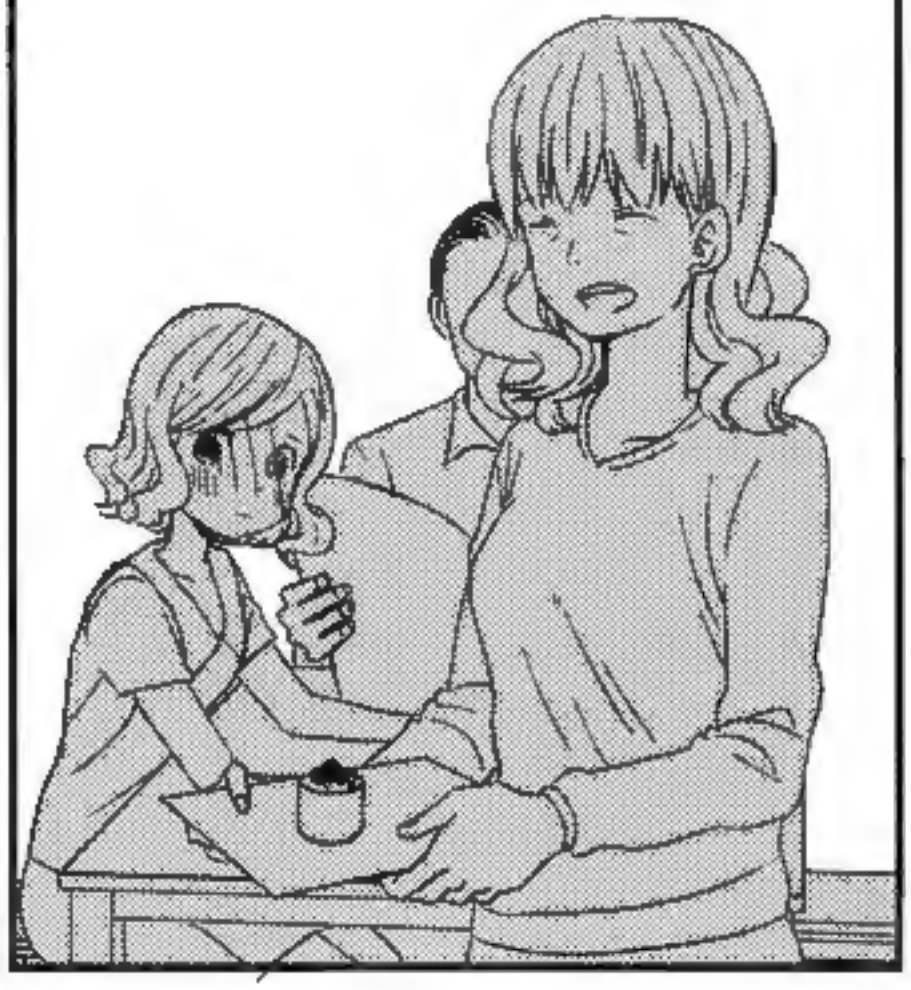
I'm so spoiled

that's exactly why

But

I can't just dismiss my house in Kobe as something I'm simply grateful for.

I need to go to back to my own house.



Tastes great.

I bet what Hiro's really trying to do is return that house to the way it used to be.

She really did put all my favorites in.

Damn it.

ゴトゴトゴトゴトゴト

Extra Chapter／END